WYOMING GOVERNOR'S BIG GAME LICENSE COALITION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2003 - 2005

GOVERNOR DAVE FREUDENTHAL

ADMINISTERED BY
WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF WYOMING

PROJECT YEAR 2003

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Bighorn NF Beaver/Riparian Restoration 2003

Grant Amount $3,750 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Bowhunters of Wyoming, United States Forest Service

Beaver were transplanted so that they can construct in-stream dams to expedite riparian habitat restoration within watersheds of the Bighorn National Forest. Over 80 percent of Wyoming's wildlife species will benefit from subsequent riparian habitat restorations. Improved wet-meadow systems will benefit moose, elk, mule deer and other wildlife. Willow and aspen communities are expected to benefit from elevated water tables. The restoration of this keystone species is crucial for maintaining and enhancing late-summer flows for cold-water fisheries, including Yellowstone cutthroat, a sensitive and "petitioned" species.

Biology of Black Footed Prairie Dog Populations 2005

Grant Amount $5,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, National Wildlife Federation, Bureau of Land Management

The demographic, behavioral, physiological and reproductive effects of recreational shooting of black-tailed prairie dogs in the Thunder Basin area were investigated. In addition, the retention of metal particles in prairie dog carcasses shot by recreational shooters was studied and the first seroconversion and population response to an epizootic of plague in the black-tailed prairie dog was discovered.

Blackrock/Spread Creek Allotment Closure 2003

Grant Amount $25,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Numerous private and public donors, including Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sierra Club, North America Moose Foundation, WWF, WHFW

The NWF negotiated an agreement with the Walton Ranch and the USFS to retire the 88,000 acre Blackrock-Spread Creek cattle allotment in northwestern Wyoming. This provided better habitat for numerous species of wildlife including grizzly bears, wolves, bison, elk, mountain lions, moose, mule deer and pronghorn.

Common Loon Nesting 2003

Grant Amount $4,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

Four interpretive signs were purchased and installed in summer 2004 at the Common Loon nesting lakes outside Yellowstone National Park that received the highest amount of human pressure and have the most pressing conservation and education needs. An educational flier was developed for distribution to the public at Wyoming Game and Fish, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Audubon Wyoming offices. Informational fliers and interpretive signs educate recreationists at the lakes about negative consequences to loons, particularly during breeding, because of habitat degradation and human disturbances.

PROJECT YEAR 2003

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Half Moon WHMA/Waterwell 2004

Grant Amount $14,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

Half Moon WHMA Water Well Development entailed drilling a water well, installing a solar pump, tire bank and electric fencing to develop a grassbank. The grassbank will be used to allow rest and/or habitat treatments on public or private land elsewhere to benefit mule deer, sage grouse and other wildlife.

Jackson Moose/Calf Recruitment 2003

Grant Amount $10,220 **Partners** WGBGLC, Animal Control Districts, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

Ten female moose were collared to provide increased monitoring of moose in the Grand Teton Park and Bridger-Teton National Forest. Moose are monitored for pregnancy rates, calf production and calf survival. Fall movement to winter ranges will be also be tracked.

Jackson Sheep Disease Monitoring 2004

Grant Amount $1,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Wy FNAWS

Bighorn sheep were darted and immobilized on Miller Butte, Camp Creek and Russold Hill. Biological samples were collected and prepared for analysis at the WGFD Veterinarian Laboratory. Samples included nasal, tonsil and ear swabs and blood and fecal samples. Animals were ear tagged before release.

Laramie Peak BH Sheep Flight/Survey 2004

Grant Amount $5,150 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wy FNAWS, Bowhunters of Wyoming, Safari Club International, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Wheatland residents and survey volunteers

The Laramie Peak Bighorn Sheep herd was observed. The herd is the result of several transplants of sheep. Aerial surveys were used to determine the number of sheep in the herd and their distribution. Data was then utilized to establish minimum population levels, distribution, herd ratios, and otherwise assist in management of the herd.

Moose Creek Domestic Sheep Allotment Waiver 2003

Grant Amount $12,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wy FNAWS, Eastern FNAWS, MN/WI FNAWS, Iowa FNAWS, National FNAWS

This program retired the fourth of five domestic sheep allotments on the west slope of the Tetons. The permittee voluntarily waived his grazing permit back to the USFS (for compensation) allowing the Caribou-Targhee National Forest to close the allotment.

Snowy Range Moose Carrying Capacity 2004

Grant Amount $6,872 **Partners** WGBGLC, University of Wyoming, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

This project developed a GIS map of the Snowy Range. A predictive model of moose habitat on the Snowy Range was developed based on this data and scientific literature.

PROJECT YEAR 2003

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Statewide Bat Program 2003

Grant Amount $4,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

Funding was used to purchase much needed equipment for constructing and repairing Bat Friendly Closures (gates) at caves and abandoned mines that are used by many bats in the state. Bat Friendly Closures help address human safety concerns and protect the important roosts of 11 species of bats, 10 of which are considered "Species of Special Concern".

Sublette Deer/Oil/Gas Study Phase II 2003

Grant Amount $3,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Questar, Bureau of Land Management

The project was an assessment of the potential impacts of oil and gas development on mule deer in Western Wyoming. The study identified and monitored the distribution and habitat use patterns of mule deer in areas with and without gas development so comparisons can be made over time and the impacts of gas developments can be better understood.

Targhee Moose Sightability Study 2004

Grant Amount $3,910 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

During 2004, past moose observations were plotted on base maps utilizing GIS software. A total of five low density count blocks and four high density count blocks were designated. A helicopter survey was conducted in the stratified survey units. Eighty groups of moose were observed in the units. Animal locations were recorded by UTM and estimates of vegetation cover were made. One hundred fifty-nine moose were observed during this survey including 31 adult males, 4 yearling bulls, 82 cows and 32 calves. Project benefits include a population estimate for moose distribution in Wyoming along the Idaho state line. Winter moose distribution for the two areas was surveyed. Population data gathered is thought to be representative and reflecting actual characteristics of the population.

Torry Creek Meadow Irrigation Improvement 2003

Grant Amount $10,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming FNAWS,Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

This project was designed to provide better habitat for local bighorn sheep herds. Gated pipe was purchased and installed allowing closure of open ditches in the meadow. Fertilizer was applied several times to enhance vegetation growth.

WY PIF Golf Course as Habitat 2003

Grant Amount $750 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Bureau of Land Management

Funding was used to purchase twenty copies of the book "Bird Conservation on Golf Courses: A Design and Management Manual". One copy was mailed to each of the golf course managers in the state of Wyoming who expressed an interest in managing habitat for wildlife. A cover letter was provided to initiate partnerships and on-the-ground avian and habitat conservation.

PROJECT YEAR 2003

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo (2003) 2003

Grant Amount $10,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, numerous private and public donors including Governor Freudenthal, National Rifle Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Shikar-Safari International, Weatherby Foundation International

The Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage EXPO's goal is to promote a lifetime of outdoor skills and conservation education and serve as a catalyst to promote the O.R.E.O (Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities) program to teachers and youth leaders. O.R.E.O was initiated to teach our youth outdoor skills and related conservation education concepts that can be enjoyed a lifetime. O.R.E.O schools are well represented each year at the EXPO.

Adopt-a-Lek Open

Grant Amount $3,750 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Wildilfe Federation, National Wildlife Federation; Maki Foundation

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation is one of three National Wildlife Federation affiliates participating in the National Adopt-A-Lek program. Through this program, volunteers are recruited, identified, trained and assigned, in close cooperation with Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) biologists and follow current WGFD and WAFWA protocols to perform lek censuses and/or lek searches in areas where those volunteers are needed. Volunteers also collect information on distance to disturbances from the leks they census. In addition, especially committed volunteers perform nesting habitat assessments and note the presence of noxious weeds in nesting habitat subsequent to the nesting season. Lek census and search information is promptly forwarded to the WGFD and appropriate Federal land management agencies.

Aquatic Habitat & Wildlife Education 2005

Grant Amount $3,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

A self-guided tour was developed at the Ten Sleep Fish Hatchery with content focused on the Yellowstone cutthroat trout habitat and management and the role fish culture plays in the conservation of the species. This will provide educational opportunities for the public and increase awareness of cutthroat trout sub-species.

Bate's Creek Watershed Restoration (2004) 2004

Grant Amount $10,800 **Partners** WGBGLC, Miles Land and Livestock, Inc., Wyoming State Forestry, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel, in conjunction with a private contractor, have cut approximately 65 acres of pine trees that have encroached aspen stands. The goal is to treat approximately 5,000 acres of aspen and as many, if not more acres of, big sagebrush within the Bates Creek watershed to restore hydrology and natural vegetative processes, which have been interrupted primarily through fire suppression. This project is intended to last approximately 16 years.

PROJECT YEAR 2004

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Big Game Migration Barrier GIS Project — Open

Grant Amount $12,533 **Partners** WGBGLC, University of Wyoming

This project's goal is to produce a GIS product that will graphically display problems and barriers to big game movement across the state of Wyoming. This will allow for the sharing of data with land management agencies, NGOs, industry representatives, and other state agencies. The ultimate objective would be to identify the most important problems and to formulate plans to solve these problems. The product of this effort would form the base to which additional information layers for these and other species can be added. This additional information could include other forms of impacts; other biological, physical and social factors; other important life history information for big game; and pertinent data for other species.

Big Goose Willow Burn — 2004

Grant Amount $5,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, United States Forest Service

A prescribed burn was conducted in sedge/willow riparian to kill encroaching conifers and stimulate new willow growth.

Bighorn Mountains Moose Aerial Survey — 2004

Grant Amount $6,240 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

The Bighorn Mountains in north-central Wyoming have consistently produced trophy class animals and is one of the hardest moose licenses to draw. In order to better understand population dynamics of this herd, moose were intensively surveyed using helicopters. During the surveys, moose numbers, sex,age and GPS locations were recorded.

Buffalo Creek/Sand Draw Sagebrush — Open

Grant Amount $6,570 **Partners** WGBGLC, Bureau of Land Management

Studies have shown that over-mature, dense and dead sagebrush plants on crucial winter range contribute to lower numbers of mule deer and sage grouse. Dense Sagebrush stands in three treatment blocks, totaling 1,466 acres, will be mowed using a rubber tired tractor equipped with a rotary cutter to achieve a mosaic pattern. Brush mowing has been shown to have advantages over prescribed fire or chemical control and can be controlled with excellent precision. Little stress is placed on desirable herbaceous species and, even with low cutting height, a percentage of sagebrush plants survive treatment to allow a faster recovery of sagebrush in treated areas.

PROJECT YEAR 2004

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Clark's Fork Bighorn Sheep Survey 2004

Grant Amount $4,000 **Partners** WGBGLC

An aerial survey of the Clark's Fork Bighorn Sheep Herd Unit was performed on 7/19/04 and 8/5/04. A total of 185 sheep were classified during 4.2 hours of actual survey time. Sheep numbers in most areas within Hunt Area 1 were similar to past efforts. Sheep in the area near Cooke City Montana experienced a substantial die-off during the winter of 1991-1992. Results of this flight show some recovery has taken place, but numbers are still not what they were prior to the die-off. Consistent monitoring of this population, plus planned investigations into the movement and distribution of sheep on the Beartooth Plateau, both of which were made possible through funding from the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, will dramatically increase the understanding of the Clark's Fork bighorn sheep herd.

Clark's Fork Canyon/Bearthtooth BHS Move Study Open

Grant Amount $9,220 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming FNAWS, Montana FNAWS

Determine the movements and distribution of bighorn sheep in the Clark's Fork Canyon/Beartooth Plateau portion of Hunt Area 1. Because we currently have no information, general movement information is needed. Six sheep from a known wintering population in the Clark's Fork Canyon will be radio collared, as will six sheep from a less well known (and presumably smaller) summering population in the Littlerock Creek/Bennett Creak area of the Beartooth Plateau. Determining whether the two groups are distinct, or connected is important, and if they are found to be distinct, further study of both groups will be required.

Colorado River Cutthrout Trout Restoration Open

Grant Amount $1,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, United States Forest Service

Restoration efforts of the Colorado River Cutthroat trout have been ongoing in Wyoming since the mid 1970s, but much more work is needed. This project allows for the design and installation of an interpretive sign for all forest visitors to educate/inform them about threats to Colorado River cutthroat trout, current status as threatened species, and historical/current restoration efforts, including existing fish barriers, undertaken by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and US Forest Service (Medicine Bow National Forest) throughout the Little Snake River Drainage. The sign will be placed along HWY 70, in a right-of-way along Haggerty Creek where a fish barrier now exists.

PROJECT YEAR 2004

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Crucial Winter Range Enhancement WHMA#3 Open

Grant Amount $6,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

WGFD Wildlife Habitat Management Areas located along the east slope of the Bighorn Mountains provide winter habitats for approximately 1,850 elk, 1,310 deer and 100 pronghorn antelope. Improved fire protection in recent decades on these 27,173 acres has allowed more areas to develop climax vegetative community types having lower carrying capacities. During the early 20th century and before, wildfires regularly burned these areas. Much of the post-fire vegetation provided favorable forage for certain game species, especially deer and elk, whose numbers subsequently increased. This project involves reestablishing the ecological role of fire on department owned lands. Private industry will provide trained personnel, equipment and expertise to conduct the fires.

Devil's Canyon BHS Radio Collaring 2004

Grant Amount $30,400 **Partners** WGBGLC, Bowhunters of Wyoming, Wy FNAWS, Wy ADMB, Big Horn County PAB, USDA/ADC/Wildlife Services

Satellite GPS radio collars were affixed to six bighorn sheep ewes in March 2004, in advance of the December 2004 transplant of 20 bighorn sheep from Oregon. Of the 20 transplanted sheep, 12 were fitted with GPS radio collars and 8 were fitted with ear tag transmitters. The two sets of radio collared animals will allow a comparison of habitat selection, seasonal/daily movements and lambing location/timing between residual sheep from a 1973 transplant and the 2004 transplant.

Devil's Canyon BHS Supplemental Transplant (Ph. 2) Open

Grant Amount $68,200 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Chapter of FNAWS

An existing population of bighorn sheep along Devil's Canyon was supplemented with a transplant of bighorns from low elevation, xeric, canyon habitats in Oregon. All individuals were radio marked to track migrations and habitat use.

Dick Creek Grazing Management 2004

Grant Amount $25,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Shoshone National Forest; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

The permittee of the Shoshone Forest's Sunshine C&H Allotment, with a monetary incentive from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, waived 409 AUMs of his term grazing permit to the Forest Service with no preference for reissue. The portion of the allotment was then absorbed as a pasture in the adjacent Dick Creek C&H Allotment with no increase in the existing permitted AUMs for that allotment. This effectively decreased the stocking rate for the combined units by 23%. The Sunshine and Dick Creek Allotments and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Sunshine Wildlife Habitat Management Area were combined into one grazing system to allow the flexibility to implement a grazing strategy tailored to enhance wildlife habitat. The addition of this allotment to the grazing system is critical because it provides an additional pasture, which shortens the duration of grazing in all pastures, and provides the only practical trailing route between the Sunshine WHMA and the Forest allotments.

PROJECT YEAR 2004

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Don't Poach the Powder — Open

Grant Amount $6,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, Wyoming Wildlife Federation, Wyoming State Snowmobile Association, Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative, National Elk Refuge, Friends of Pathways, Greater Yellowstone Coalition and Teton Conservation District.

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, in collaboration with partners listed, sponsored "Don't Poach the Powder", a public relations campaign to educate and inform Jackson Hole residents and visitors of winter wildlife closures on public lands surrounding Jackson Hole. The participating groups feel that this campaign is essential to protecting wildlife during the harsh Jackson Hole winter months - a time when they are most at risk.

Effects On Winter Recreation — 2005

Grant Amount $8,750 **Partners** WGBGLC, University of Wyoming

The study deals with the effect of over-snow travel on the movements of mammals that travel on the snow surface, testing the hypothesis that species without special adaptations to snow will show increased movements in winter where compacted snow trails are provided. These species may then compete with or diplace species that are adapted to loose, deep snow conditions.

Gooseberry/Cottonwood Watershed Enhancement — 2004

Grant Amount $13,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Washakie County Conservation District

Funds were used to help with the purchase of a "Timber Ax", an implement that is used for mechanical control of Tamarisk and Russian Olive trees. Both species are non-native shrubs/trees that crowd out desirable native vegetation such as cottonwood and willow and have severely reduced wildlife habitat quality in the Gooseberry Creek and Cottonwood Creek Watersheds. The Timber Ax will be cooperatively used on the project to enhance and rehabilitate native riparian habitats for the benefit of many wildlife species including mule deer and sage grouse.

JHWF Fence Removal Program — 2005

Grant Amount $2,560 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Becket Valley YMCA (Massachusetts), Grand Teton National Park, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Interagency Fire Crew, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, Jackson Hole Land Trust, National Elk Refuge, Red Top Meadows, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Teton Science School, Utah Conservation Corps, Wyoming Wildlife Federation

The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation (JHFW) organized groups of volunteers to remove unused (unnecessary) barbwire fence from public (Grand Teton National Park and Forest Service) and private land throughout Teton County that is a hazard to wildlife.

PROJECT YEAR 2004

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Lander Moose Aerial Study 2005

Grant Amount $6,273 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

Conducted intensive aerial winter range surveys in the Lander Moose Herd to more accurately delineate moose winter range and improve classification data collection.

Monitoring Jackson Herd Unit Open

Grant Amount $6,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Elk Refuge and Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

WGBGLC funds were used to complete the third and final year of an ongoing three-year radio telemetry study of elk migration, habitat selection, and seasonal range use within the Jackson Elk herd. Emphasis was placed on 20 collared elk within the Gros Ventre drainage which have been tracked for the past two years.

Moose Calf Recruitment in Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone and Habitat 2004

Grant Amount $10,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Animal Damage Management Board, Teton County Conservation District, University of Wyoming, Wyoming Department of Transportation

The status of the north Jackson Moose Herd was investigated, including adult health, adult survival, calving rates and recruitment and moose resource selection. The University of Wyoming is currently developing a study plan to address objectives outlined during the funding phase of this study. During 2005, field work will begin with the capture and collaring of adult moose. Animals will be assessed for health parameters and monitoring during the course of the year.

Mountain Allotment Prescribed Burn Open

Grant Amount $5,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Bureau of Land Management Worland Field Office

Approximately 1,011 acres of sagebrush/juniper/limber pine and aspen clone areas were targeted for burning. Within aspen clone areas, conifer and shrub encroachments, as well as conifer slash were targeted. Within the burn block, concentration was placed on juniper and limber pine invasion. Treatment included between 40% to 60% of trees within the burn blocks on elk wintering areas, leaving a mosaic of treated/untreated areas.

National BHS Interpretive Center Project 2004

Grant Amount $550 **Partners** WGBGLC

Two DVD players were purchased to provide additional resources in displays.

PROJECT YEAR 2004

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

North American Moose Convention 2004

Grant Amount $1,685 **Partners** WGBGLC

A member of the WGFD Moose Working Group attended the North American Moose Workshop and Conference. This is the annual meeting of moose researchers and managers from Canada, the United States and northern Europe. Declining Department budgets have resulted in fewer dollars available for attending professional meetings. These meetings allow managers to keep abreast of current research and management techniques, build relationships between agency personnel and allow managers to discuss problems with peers.

Red Creek BH Sheep Movement/Migration Study 2004

Grant Amount $2,750 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Bowhunters of Wyoming, National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center

This project involved placing GPS telemetry collars on three bighorn sheep wintering in the Little Red Creek drainage. The GPS collars track the movement and habitat use of these sheep throughout the summer of 2004. In November 2004, the collars were retrieved and movement data from these sheep was analyzed.

Sheep Ridge Prescribed Burn 2005

Grant Amount $7,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming FNAWS

This project was planned to open up or re-create a migration corridor for Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep on Sheep Ridge which has been substantially encroached by conifers over the past decades. The objective was to improve an historical migration corridor between Sheep Ridge and lambing areas above the Jakey's Fork and increase forage for wintering bighorn sheep on Sheep Ridge. The prescribed burn was part of a two stage habitat improvement project that included a 15 acre timber cut. The prescribed burn was intended to expand upon the previous timber cut. This project is expected to treat approximately 100 acres of conifer trees along this spring/fall migration route for sheep wintering on Sheep Ridge.

Snowy Range Moose Habitat/Carrying Capacity (2004) 2005

Grant Amount $14,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Bowhunters of Wyoming

This project is intended to provide the WGFD with a carrying capacity estimate for moose in the Snowy Range. Moose were first sighted on the Snowy Range in 1981. Consequently, their use of habitats is in addition to historic use by other species. With the concerns about moose nutrition in NW Wyoming, it is prudent to determine how many moose the Snowy Range can support prior to reaching that level. This is important not only to protect moose habitat but habitat used by other wildlife and permitted domestic stock.

PROJECT YEAR 2004

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Upper Grass Creek Aspen Enhancement — Open

Grant Amount $5,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Bureau of Land Management Worland Field Office

Regenerate approximately 98 acres of decadent and conifer encroachment on aspen in Upper Grass Creek Drainage. The 40 clones to be treated are within Raspberry, Hess and West Hess draws. Treatment will depend on the condition of aspen clone, merchantable timber component, logging access, and prescribed burning feasibility. For small low vigor clones, units will involve conifer cutting and aspen girdling. For larger and more vigorous clones, unit prescription will consist of fuel augmentation, hand lining and prescribed burning.

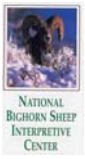
Wapiti Ridge BHS Survey — 2005

Grant Amount $4,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

An aerial survey of the Wapiti Ridge Bighorn Sheep Herd Unit was conducted on 1/25/05. A total of 592 sheep (160 Rams, 330 ewes and 102 lambs) were classified during 3.8 hours of actual survey time. The ram/ewe and the ewe/lamb ratio of this sample compare favorably with past aerial survey efforts. When coupled with ground survey efforts, a total of 802 sheep were classified in the Wapiti Range Herd Unit following the 2004 season.

WGFD BH Sheep Working Group Display Improvements — Open

Grant Amount $1,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Department



After its inception in 1997, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Bighorn Sheep Working Group created a informational display for use at conventions, fund-raisers, etc. Since that time, advances have been made in Wyoming bighorn sheep management and several of the photographs and some of the information used in the display had become outdated. Funding was used to produce new updated photographs, captions, maps and to produce a Wyoming sheep hunter "scrap book" for use in the display.

Wildlife Friendly/Restrictive Fence Models — 2005

Grant Amount $1,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Fence models were created to she the differences, benefits and importance of wildlife friendly fencing versus wildlife restrictive fencing. The models are displayed at conventions, the Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Expo and other similar forums. Several phone calls have been received from land owners wanting to put up Wildlife Friendly Fences and the Wyoming Wildlife Magazine plans to run an article on them after seeing the models.

Wind River Canyon BHS Interpretive Signing — 2004

Grant Amount $4,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Wyoming FNAWS, Wyoming Department of Transportation, State Parks personnel

Three signs were purchased and installed at different locations along Highway 20 through the Wind River Canyon south of Thermopolis. These signs will provide information on the history of bighorn sheep ecology and biology, ecological benefits of recent fires in Wind River Canyon and surrounding areas, and other wildlife related information.

PROJECT YEAR 2004

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

WRAC-Domestic Sheep Allotment Waiver Phase I 2004

Grant Amount $64,800 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Wy FNAWS, Eastern FNAWS, MN/WI FNAWS, Iowa FNAWS, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, NWF, Private Donors

In October 2004, a down payment of $130,000 was made to a domestic sheep permittee to waive his permits back to the USFS (without preference) on the Wyoming Range Sheep Allotment. The Bridger-Teton NF closed 42,500 acres to livestock grazing and placed the remaining 25,000 acres into an Emergency Forage Reserve (I.e. grassbank) which can only be grazed by domestic sheep under very strict terms and conditions.

WY Range Bighorn Sheep Summer Dist. Survey 2004

Grant Amount $3,955 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming FNAWS

The presence and distribution of bighorn sheep along the northern portion of the Wyoming Range was surveyed. Only six sheep were documented.

Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo (2004) 2004

Grant Amount $10,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Numerous public and private organizations. Platinum Sponsors included Governor Freudenthal and the WGBGLC, National Rifle Association Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Shikar-Safari International Foundation and Weatherby Foundation International

Expo '04 served as a catalyst to promote the O.R.E.O (Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities) program to teachers and youth leaders. O.R.E.O was initiated to teach our youth outdoor skills and related conservation education concepts that can be enjoyed a lifetime. O.R.E.O schools are well represented each year at the EXPO.

Audubon Bird Monitoring Open

Grant Amount $2,150 **Partners** WGBGLC, Inter-mountain West Joint Venture Cost Share Grant, North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant, Partners In Flight/Bureau of Land Management Grant, Private Donors.

The project will support conservation and monitoring needs of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Wyoming. The IBA project objective is to maintain long-term monitoring on IBAs where needed, as well as to expand the monitoring and conservation efforts to additional sites where partnerships and opportunity exists. Specifically, Audubon Wyoming will continue point-count monitoring on the Wyecott Pinedale Ranch, working with the WGFD and the landowner to assess the possible effects wetland restoration may have on the avi-fauna on the Green River, continue waterfowl brood surveys on the Soda Lake Wildlife Habitat Management Area, expand the sage-grouse lek surveys in the Casper and Laramie regions, and expand conservation and monitoring efforts in other IBA sites throughout the state.

PROJECT YEAR 2005

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Bates Creek Watershed Restoration (2005) — Open

Grant Amount $22,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, Miles Land and Livestock Company, USDA Forest Service - Douglas Ranger District, USDI Bureau of Land Management - Casper Field Office, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wyoming State Forestry, Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Bowhunters of Wyoming, and Wyoming Game and Fish Depart.

This project will delineate aspen communities that are in peril within the Bates Creek watershed and develop treatments to regenerate these stands. Regeneration will be accomplished through mechanical (cutting, jack-strawing) and natural (prescribed fire) means. We intend to treat approximately 350 acres of aspen over a two-year timeframe. Furthermore, we intend to treat big sagebrush and conifer communities that have encroached historical aspen communities, projecting aspen will expand back into those areas where it was located historically. Moreover, we want to restore the hydrologic functions within the Bates Creek watershed through the treatment of aspen, big sagebrush, and conifers. WGFD personnel, in cooperation with Miles Land and Livestock Company, will collaborate on the techniques used to enhance aspen communities for big game and other wildlife species; improve watershed health within Bates Creek; and improve hydrologic functions within the Bates Creek watershed. Enhancement techniques may include, but are not limited to, prescribed burning, and timber cutting. Moreover, Miles Land and Livestock Company is currently involved in the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Hunter Management Program, which allows for elk, mule deer, and elk hunting opportunities.

Bats of Wyoming Poster and Publication — Open

Grant Amount $8,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, The Wyoming Bat Working Group, Wyoming Game & Fish Department

This project provides funding for tools to inform and educate the public about Wyoming bats, their role in the environment, and how the public could help conserve these frequently misunderstood creatures. With adequate funding, we would print a glossy 4-color brochure about the bats of Wyoming and a 4-color poster highlighting the bats of Wyoming and the habitats they frequent. The brochure was written by Bob Luce and appeared in Wyoming Wildlife in 1998. The proposed tools will serve four purposes: increase understanding and appreciation of bats and the role they play in the ecosystem; promote stewardship of all wildlife; provide direct interaction between wildlife professionals from a variety of agencies and organizations and the public; and help the terrestrial native Species Program and the Wyoming Bat Working Group (an interagency group) achieve information and education objectives for bats.

PROJECT YEAR 2005

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Black-footed Ferret Anesthesia Equipment — Open

Grant Amount $2,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Non-game Program

This project would provide funding to purchase specialized anesthesia equipment needed to immobilize black-footed ferrets during annual field surveys in Shirley Basin. The specialized portable anesthesia equipment vaporizes Isoflurane into a gas which is utilized to immobilize ferrets in order to mark them with microchips (passive integrated transponders) and take a variety of phenological measurements. Due to current WGFD budget constraints and sideboards on spending federal funds, the Non-game Program has been unable to purchase this specialized equipment and has had to borrow similar equipment from the Conata Basin reintroduction site in 2004. Scheduling conflicts will likely preclude sharing of equipment in the future.

Clear/Crazy Route Closure — Open

Grant Amount $2,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, United States Forestry Service $20,000. Application for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation funding also pending

The Clear/Crazy Designated Motorized Trail System includes approximately 6,000 acres in the southeast corner of the Bighorn National Forest, approximately 20 miles southwest of Buffalo, Wyoming. The vegetation in the project area is primarily lodgepole pine with interspersed meadows and aspen habitat, creating prime elk habitat with abundant springs as water sources. The area has had past timber harvest treatments resulting in a high open road density that has negatively affected elk and other wildlife habitat. In addition, the area was up until present designated a “C” area on the Forest travel map, which allowed for off-road vehicle use throughout the project area with no restrictions. The Doyle Creek portion of the project area contains some of the last valuable elk security habitat within the project area. Elk security has been modeled on the Forest in conjunction with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and it has become one of the key issues for the public in revising the current Forest Plan. Security habitat is defined in general as those areas providing forested hiding cover that are greater than ½ mile from an open road or motorized trail. There are approximately 10 miles of routes in the Doyle Creek area requiring closure.

PROJECT YEAR 2005

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Devil's Canyon BHS Supplemental Transplant (Ph. 3) Open

Grant Amount $68,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming FNAWS, Bureau of Land Management-Cody field office, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, US Geological Service-Biological Survey, Bighorn National Forest, Big Horn County Predatory Animal Board, Wildlife Services, Crow Indian Tribal Natural Resources Dept., US Fish and Wildlife-Tribal Technical Assistance Office

We are seeking funding for phase three of this multi-stage project to cover the second transplant and third year of data collection. This research is designed to determine if matching habitats of a source herd of bighorn sheep with habitat of a release site can increase odds of establishing a viable bighorn population. Sheep from xeric, low elevation canyon habitats in Oregon are being transplanted to Devil's Canyon. All transplanted individuals should be radio-marked to track migrations and habitat use. The objective of this project is to develop and maintain a huntable population of bighorn sheep in Devil's Canyon. We eventually hope to be able to use sheep from this herd as a source herd for similar canyon habitats across Wyoming. We feel it is important to radio-mark all transplanted sheep to facilitate removal of any wild sheep that intermingle with domestic sheep, and to closely monitor habitat use and selection. By radio-marking wild sheep released into Devil's Canyon, we will be able to determine habitat use and movements of the transplanted sheep. We will use this data to develop and test a predictive model of habitat use for bighorn sheep in dry, canyon habitats in Wyoming and elsewhere. We will relocate ewes during summer to track survival and reproduction of transplanted sheep. We will also determine behavioral interactions of transplanted sheep with the existing sheep in Devil's Canyon.

Gooseberry Watershed Enhancement Project Open

Grant Amount $7,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Washakie Co. Cons. District, Washakie County Weed and Pest, Landowners, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept

The Gooseberry Watershed Enhancement project encompasses the entire Gooseberry Creek watershed in Hot Springs and Washakie Counties, Wyoming. The focus of the project is riparian restoration. This will be accomplished by replacing non-native tamarisk and Russian olive with more desirable native grasses, forbs, trees, and shrubs. Both tamarisk and Russian olive are invasive non-native shrubs that were introduced in the late 1800's as ornamentals from Eurasia. Unfortunately, as often occurs with introduced species, they spread exponentially and now present a serious threat to native species. Both species are very competitive with desirable natives and stands often become so dense that they displace all other vegetation. The riparian area then becomes a monoculture of undesirable plants. This severely reduces habitat and grazing/browsing value for both wildlife and livestock. Tamarisk can also increase the salinity of surface soil and dry up springs, wetlands, and riparian areas by lowering the water table.

PROJECT YEAR 2005

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Hansen Conservation Easement Open

Grant Amount $6,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, The Nature Conservancy, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Hansen Family Trust, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Bowhunters of Wyoming.

A conservation easement is proposed on the North Fork Ranch to prevent development and to conserve wildlife habitat. Owners of the ranch, Ron and Jeff Hansen, want to permanently protect their property with a conservation easement. Important seasonal ranges for the South Wind River Deer and Elk Herds will be protected with the proposed conservation easement. Habitat for other species such as; pronghorn, sage grouse, raptors and others will benefit from the conservation easement. Several Species of Concern identified in Wyoming's draft Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy will also benefit from the proposed conservation easement. One half of the value of the easement will be acquired with Farm and Ranch Protection Program funds. The program allows the landowners to donate one fourth of the value of the easement for tax considerations. The Hansens have agreed to this donation. The department and The Nature conservancy will secure funding for the remaining one fourth interest in the easement. The Department will hold and monitor the easement.

Jackson Habitat Use and Population Dynamics of Shiras Moose in NW Wyoming Open

Grant Amount $15,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Animal Damage Management Board, Teton County Conservation District, University of Wyoming (Coop Unit), Wyoming Dept. of Transportation, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. - M&O

Twenty adult female moose will be fitted with GPS radio collars and 27 adult male moose will be fitted with VHF radio transmitters. Adult survival rates will be estimated from 42 adult female moose and from 27 adult male moose via ground monitoring and monthly aerial relocations. At time of capture, blood, hair, and fecal samples will be collected to obtain blood chemistry profiles, check for presence of pathogens and infectious diseases, and to determine overall health of each animal. A portable ultrasound unit was also used on 21 of the 47 captured moose to measure rump fat depth, which will be used as another index of overall health of the animal. Ten to twenty adult females will be recaptured in 2006 to download GPS radio transmitters and to compare to physiological indices collected in 2005. Also, physiological parameters will be compared to those collected by Eric Wald (University of Wyoming) from the Snowy Range moose study. Pregnancy tests are currently being analyzed using blood sera to identify pregnancy specific proteins. Fecal samples will be collected throughout late winter and early spring and fecal progestagen concentrations will be tested to determine pregnancy status until parturition. Verification of parturition will be estimated from ground and aerial surveys of radio collared females post-calving; calf survival will be estimated from the presence of yearlings with radio collared females on winter ranges during classification flights in February. Moose resource selection will be estimated from 20 adult females fit with GPS radio collars. GPS locations will also provide an assessment of moose movements in relation to highway structure along US 287/26, where future highway construction has been proposed. Moose activity along the highway will be evaluated relative to vegetation structure, fences, and riparian corridors.

PROJECT YEAR 2005

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

JHWF-Enhanced Power Line Markers to Prevent Loss of Trumpeter Swans — Open

Grant Amount $3,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, Lower Valley Energy, PR Technologies

Collisions with power lines and fences have been identified as a major source of mortality for Trumpeter Swans, a species of conservation concern in Wyoming (Nongame Bird and Mammal Plan, WGFD 1996). This project would provide funding to purchase a new type of effective line marker that diverts birds, and would also help pay for installation of markers by the local power company at locations specified by WGFD staff. The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation (a nonprofit located in Jackson, WY) has worked with Wyoming Game & Fish Department in past years to publicize this problem, and educate the public in addition to funding projects to mark or bury power lines in locations critical for swans. Lower Valley Energy, the local power company, has contributed substantial amounts of time and equipment in past years to mark lines identified by WGFD as problem areas, that is, sites where swans have been killed or injured.

Jim Mountain Allotment Complex Waiver — 2005

Grant Amount $25,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming FNAWS,MN/WI FNAWS, Grand Slam Club/Ovis, Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wildlife Foundation

The Jim Mountain Allotment Complex consists of the Jim Mountain C&H Allotment and Dunn Creek C&H Allotment administered by the Shoshone National Forest and the Jim Creek Allotment and Four Bear Allotment administered by the Cody Field Office Bureau of Land Management. The current permittee and lessee wants to relinquish these permits, totaling 500 AUMs, and move his cattle grazing operation to private lands. The project would involve offering a financial incentive to waive the 438 AUMs associated with the Forest Service Allotments back to the Forest Service with no preference for re-issue and to relinquish the remaining 62 AUMs associated with the BLM lease. Both the Forest Service and BLM allotments would then be managed as "wildlife winter range allotments". Revised allotment management plans for these allotments would allow for periodic contract grazing by cattle only if deemed necessary by an interagency/interdisciplinary steering committee to enhance forage quantity and quality for wildlife. The interagency/interdisciplinary steering committee would be comprised of Forest Service, BLM, and Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel, representatives of wildlife and livestock organizations, and adjacent private landowners. Specific criteria for when livestock grazing would be considered as a tool to enhance habitat have been drafted for all allotments.

Lake DeSmet Conservation District Diversion Rehabilitation — Open

Grant Amount $5,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. Wildlife Trust Fund Grant, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., NRCS,WHIP

The project entails designing and constructing fish-friendly at irrigation diversions on Clear Creek. NRCS personnel have identified opportunities with the operators of four diversions. These include the Clear Creek Land and Ditch Company, Redman, Des Moines, and Watt ditches. A block grant approach is being pursued to cost-share on rehabilitation efforts. Work would begin at the diversion sites that receive WHIP rankings adequate to trigger cost share assistance from the NRCS.

PROJECT YEAR 2005

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

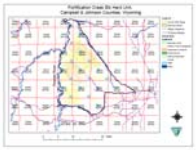
Laramie Range Prescribed Burns — Open

Grant Amount $5,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., private landowners, Bureau of Land Management - Casper District, US Dept. of Agricutlure Natural Resources Conservation Service, Platte County Resource District, non-profit conservation groups

The project expectations include: Increase quality / quantity of mixed mountain shrubs for use by big game; increase herbaceous forage quality/quantity for use by big game and livestock, set back plant succession, allow for recruitment of young plants, create uneven aged shrub stands across the landscape; improving overall habitat quality for all of Wyoming's wildlife; improve livestock grazing distribution, better use of upland habitats, reduce pressure on bottomlands/riparian habitats, and continue large scale, multi-year habitat enhancement (prescribed burn) program in the southern Laramie Range.

Red Rim Elk Seasonal Movements Study — Open

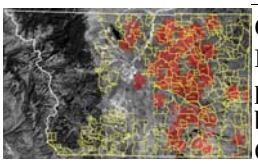
Grant Amount $1,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wyoming Game and Fish Department



Ten cow elk will be radio-collared by a contract netgun crew in January, 2005. These elk will be monitored using fixed-wing aircraft for approximately 18 months to determine location of elk seasonal ranges and timing/location(s) of migration corridors of animals wintering on, or near, the Red Rim Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA).

Sagebrush Restoration Pilot Project-Johnson County — Open

Grant Amount $2,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. Trust Fund, NRCS Grazing Lands Initiative, Ayas Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service grants, State Wildlife Grant



Collaborative efforts have been underway by the Lake DeSmet Conservation District, BLM, NRCS, Northeast Wyoming Sage Grouse Working Group and WGFD to establish a pilot project for sagebrush habitat restoration. The pilot project will be located within the boundaries of the Lake DeSmet Conservation District, which is found in northern Johnson County. Benefits to sage-grouse, as well as increases in summer mule deer abundance, from their ranch management operations have been documented in previous studies. In one instance, a six-fold increase in male lek attendance was observed by implementing timed livestock grazing, for plantings, mechanical treatments, breaking up old stands of sagebrush, modifying fences, installing ramps in water troughs and identifying sagebrush stands for protection (as winter habitat). Because the studied ranch succeeded at increasing sage grouse populations and enhancing mule deer summer habitats while maintaining working ranches, this collaborative effort will replicate the model in Johnson County.

PROJECT YEAR 2005

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Sheep Center-National Bighorn Sheep Int. Center Exhibit Preservation and Upgrade Open

Grant Amount $6,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, FNAWS, WY Chapter FNAWS, National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Assn., The Nature Conservancy

Fund will be used to preserve and protect the 34 mounts that form the core of the Center's dioramas and exhibits for ten years. The displays are expected to reach 10,000 students, Wyoming residents and travelers to the region with an accurate, timely, informative, thought provoking and engaging messages in dioramas, exhibits and audio/visual presentations. The Center now hosts from 7,500 to 8,000 paying visitors annually plus 600 to 700 students and their teachers. With improved exhibits, our goal is to increase visitation by 1,300. Also, improving the mounts will create effective and accurate exhibits that provide an interactive conservation education experience that uses various learning approaches and engages all the senses.

Snowy Range Moose Habitat Ecology and Carrying Capacity (2005) Open

Grant Amount $15,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, University of Wyoming, Renewable Resources Dept, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Bowhunters of Wyoming

This project is designed to investigate habitat ecology of moose within the Snowy Range of Wyoming. We are interested in predicting moose habitat and its availability across different spatial and landscape scales while simultaneously investigating the condition and annual production of those habitats. We will utilize existing data compiled from previous moose habitat studies to quantify habitat types and characteristics that moose seasonally prefer. We will set certain criteria or rank the habitat variables and incorporate them into a Geographic Information System (GIS) for spatial analyses. Habitat models will be constructed following a combination of published methods and will incorporated several data layers (variables) important to moose (e.g., vegetation, hydrology, elevation, roads, etc.). Model validation is crucial for determining the accuracy of our predictions (i.e., do moose occur where the model predicts?). We will employ GPS collars on a sample of moose. These GPS data are critical in identifying some key ecological variables such as habitat utilization, home range size, migration patterns and general movements, all of which are important in validating the prediction models. Fecal analyses will facilitate identification of preferred forage species by moose and allow us to concentrate our production/utilization data collection on those key plant species. Microhistological analysis will be used to identify moose food habits. Samples will be sent to Washington State University Wildlife Habitat and Nutrition Laboratory for analyses. Our a priori assumption is that wintering habitats are limiting for moose. Vegetation sampling and our estimates of carrying capacity will focus on where the refined winter model predicts high quality moose habitat. Willow communities are highly utilized by moose during winter (e.g., 96% of browse diet in winter) and could be a limiting factor if over utilization occurs. Other species/habitats of importance likely include spruce/fir, aspen and bitterbrush communities. It is important to determine utilization of these communities by moose in order to estimate carrying capacity. We will determine production of the key forage species (e.g., willow species) in order to formulate a potential carrying capacity estimate. Forage production, browse utilization and the area occupied by preferred forage will be evaluated within the moose wintering areas identified by our prediction model.

PROJECT YEAR 2005

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE

Sunshine-Dick Creek Grazing Management Phase II — Open

Grant Amount $6,500 **Partners** WGBGLC, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept., Shoshone National Forest, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

The primary goal of the Dick Creek/Sunshine Grazing Management is to use intensively managed livestock grazing as a tool to improve elk winter range. The intensity and timing of grazing will be carefully managed to optimize the quantity and quality of forage available to wintering elk. Other goals are to: a) protect and enhance high quality reproductive habitats of elk and mule deer by reducing livestock use, b) improve watershed health and integrity of native plant communities, c) increase hunting opportunity for elk and deer by enhancing habitats that will attract and hold animals during the hunting season, d) improve stream habitat in streams that contain Yellowstone cutthroat trout, e) provide the permit/lease holder greater stability in their operation, and f) demonstrate how livestock grazing can be managed to not only be compatible with wildlife but to improve habitat conditions.

Using Beaver to Restore Riparian Habitats on the Bighorn National Forest — Open

Grant Amount $4,900 **Partners** WGBGLC, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Bowhunters Of Wyoming, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. Trust Fund, US Forest Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. maintenance and operations budget.

This project involves transplanting beaver to construct in-stream dams to expedite riparian habitat restoration within watersheds of the Bighorn National Forest. Over 80 percent of Wyoming's wildlife speciescan benefit from subsequent riparian habitat restorations. Improved wet-meadow systems will benefit moose, elk, mule deer and other wildlife. Willow and aspen communities are expected to benefit from elevated water tables. The restoration of this keystone species is critical for maintaining and enhancing late-summer flows for cold-water fisheries, including Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

WRAC-Domestic Sheep Allotment Waiver Phase II — 2005

Grant Amount $48,200 **Partners** WGBGLC, Bridger-Teton NF, Wyoming FNAWS, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, North America Moose Foundation, Eastern FNAWS, MN/WI FNAWS, Iowa FNAWS, Trout Unlimited, multiple conservation group NGOs

Historically, the Wyoming Range has been heavily grazed by livestock, in particular by domestic sheep. Vegetative communities, especially tall forbs, are in poor vigor/health, with limited ground cover and vast expanses of bare ground. Excessive soil loss and erosion has been documented. Co-mingling of domestic and wild sheep has been suspected in this area for decades. The leasee has waived his WRAC grazing permit for 4,550 AUMs of domestic sheep use back to the BTNF. Down payment of $130,000 was made 10/12/04. The BTNF signed a Decision Memo for closure of ~42,500 acres, and placement of ~25,000 acres into an Emergency Forage Reserve (i.e., grass bank) status. Balance due of $325,000 is needed by June 30, 2005.

PROJECT YEAR 2005

PROJECT	YEAR COMPLETE
Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo (2005)	2005

Grant Amount $10,000 **Partners** WGBGLC, Numerous private and public interests, other state agencies, non-profit organizations, special interest groups, trade associations, federal and international organizations, commercial enterprises and others.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. will host its eight annual Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo Sept. 9th-11th, 2005 at the Casper Events Center. This year's theme is "Wyoming's Wildlife - Our Heritage, Our Future". The Expo is an educational event that conveys to the participants that by working together, we can leave a lasting legacy of healthy wildlife and habitat for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. There is no admittance fee to attend the Expo and no charge for any of the special events, the 175 exhibits, demonstrations, or hands on skills activities. This unique event provides the opportunity for the general public to gain a new or renewed appreciation of the importance of the conservation of our natural resources.